



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE NEEDS OF THE NEW NORTHWEST.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF MINNESOTA.

MANY of the citizens of the country living east of the Alleghanies have but a faint conception of the growth and development that have taken place in the last quarter of a century beyond the Mississippi River. They have read startling accounts of the marvellous changes occurring in the West. Some of the stories told have been more or less exaggerated—a good many overdrawn to such an extent as to savor of absolute misrepresentation. Eastern people have loaned their money to aid in the development of the Northwest, with profit, as a rule; rarely with loss. In this manner they have gained some idea of what has taken place in this part of the world. Merchants and manufacturers, too, have sold their wares to their Western customers, and there are other interests of a commercial kind linking the two together and spreading information as to the character and scope of the growth and prosperity of this favored region.

Before suggesting the material needs of this rapidly developing community, permit me to briefly call attention to the results that have been attained within a little less than thirty years. The writer of this article came to Minnesota as a boy in 1861. At that date there was not a railroad in the State. St. Paul was a town containing about 8,000 people, and Minneapolis, possessed of a magnificent water-power, had not attained the importance of her sister city. Duluth lived in the imagination. The entire western and northern part of Minnesota, and the two States known as the Dakotas, were given over to the Indians, with here and there a white settler. The farming lands adjacent to the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers were fairly well taken up, the grain finding an outlet by water connection to railroads extending across Wisconsin and Illinois. The invasion of the pine forests of Northern Minnesota by venturesome lumbermen was beginning. All of the vast territory lying beyond the Missouri River, including the rich mineral lands of Montana, and the

timber and farming lands on the eastern side of Washington, awaited settlement.

The changes have been so rapid as to almost make us marvel at the origin of the power that wrought them. Transportation facilities now extend across the entire country. The Twin Cities number nearly 400,000 people. Duluth is one of the great primary wheat markets of the world. The farm lands of Minnesota and the two Dakotas produced something like one hundred and fifty million bushels of wheat last year. Montana is now a great silver and copper-producing State. In addition, its wide ranges offer inducements and opportunities for enlarged traffic in cattle and sheep. Idaho is rich in minerals, while Washington fairly teems with great crops of grain and wonderful forests of timber which are now coming into use.

In this age of iron—this age of the development of the forces of electricity, of steam—we are borne along with the stream, and few pause to contemplate what has occurred in so short a time in the northwesterly States lying next to the British boundary. It is marvellous. It is only when confronted with the facts that we are impressed with the almost dynamic force that has been expended to attain such wonderful results. We halt for a breathing place and ask the question, "What are the needs of the new Northwest for its continued material prosperity? Its progress has been remarkable; what of its future?"

Primarily the strength of a community lies in the character, the force, and the intelligence of its citizens. Let encouragement be given to all well-disposed, law-abiding, thrifty emigrants to come to this new country and settle here, prepared to become Americans. Keep out, by the force of legislation, every individual tainted with communism, anarchism, or the like. The continued importation of an element not in harmony with the ideas of the Republic is a source of danger to the future of the country, and should be summarily stopped. The Northwest will not be benefited by becoming a dumping-ground for the refuse population of the countries of Southern Europe. Our immigration laws need revising to protect the new States from the evils that are likely to come upon them through the indiscriminate and faulty enactments now in force.

A community of the highest order, prosperous, intelligent and

law-abiding, cannot result from elements made up of people banished from their native lands for crime, pauperism, or general worthlessness. The men who laid the foundation for the future growth and success of this new country do not desire the work that has been accomplished in the past to be endangered in the future by the admission of the discordant portions of society whose mission is to destroy rather than build up.

Millions of arable acres await the plow. Unseen wealth, in the form of gold, silver, and iron, is lying hidden. Vast forests, as yet unknown to the axe of the pioneer, are ready to succumb to the relentless march of events. The avenues to wealth are many and varied. Let them be traversed by the man who is in accord with the citizenship of the Republic, and who loves and respects the law. Let education flourish to the greatest extent. The university, the common and the high school are essential to a full and complete system of education. The intelligence of the masses is a necessary adjunct to the permanency of free institutions. The State should provide liberally for its children in this direction as a means necessary to its own safety.

Where the ballot is absolutely free, with practically no restriction, it is requisite that every voter should be educated sufficiently to understand the meaning and the force of the privileges granted to him by reason of his citizenship. With education must necessarily follow the ability to reason and to discriminate as to what is good or bad for the community.

The Northwestern States have provided bountifully through grants of land, taxation, etc., for a broad and liberal system of education. It is a safeguard against the evils that are likely to arise from intrusting the voting franchise to the ignorant and lawless.

The opportunities for the use of new capital for the development of latent industries are almost limitless. Mines are to be opened, cities to be built up, and farms to be tilled, while manufacturing interests of many kinds are ready for the capitalist. Railroads are still needed in some localities.

It is easy enough to hold out glittering allurements to the older sections of the East to send their surplus earnings to this new country, but some assurances must be given that the capital sent will not be discriminated against by local legislation. The laws should be so framed as to deal out equal justice and protec-

tion to all. There has been an effort in some of the Northwestern States to enact legislation unfavorable to those with capital residing without the borders of the State. This idea is essentially unfair as well as entirely impolitic. The new Northwest needs the help of older and richer communities for its successful development, and it is the height of folly to build a wall of unjust legislation about this new country and thereby practically prohibit needed money from finding its way to us. Let our laws be so wrought as to bear equally and fairly upon capital, whether it be our own or that of our neighbor.

Another need of this new country is that every intelligent citizen shall interest himself in public affairs. In many localities there is a disposition upon the part of too many men of character and standing to shirk their duty and leave the administration of the public welfare to any one who is willing to look after it. The result is much that is bad and indifferent in government. This is entirely wrong; and if a standard of high citizenship is to be developed in the Northwest, coupled with a prosperous and intelligent community, every man, whatever his calling or station in life, must do his share of public duty.

I might suggest other needs, and there are many that I have not even touched upon; but the prescribed limits of this article forbid.

The Northwestern States comprise a limitless empire of future greatness. The infusion and commingling of the blood of the best of different nationalities, with the advantages of climate and locality, coupled with the natural sources of wealth so abundant, may evolve, as, indeed, they should, the finest kind of American men and women. It will be, after all, a question of utilizing these various forces. The opportunities are vast, and it will rest with the individual to say whether the best results shall be accomplished.

Let the citizens of the new Northwest see to it that laws humane and just be enacted, and that educational and civilizing influences are guarded and fostered. Let them look to it that her people, as individuals, are amply protected in their homes and in their vocations; that industries, manufactories, and corporate enterprises are heartily encouraged, yet firmly held, within those limits beyond which they become oppressive, and the future we hope for is assured to us.

WILLIAM R. MERRIAM.